

# Global Financing Facility

## Civil Society and Youth-led Organization Landscape Assessment

April 2023

### Country Report: Sierra Leone

Number of respondents: 4

PAI conducted an open consultation in February and March 2023 inviting civil society organizations (CSOs) and youth-led organizations (YLOs) to share their perspectives about civil society and youth engagement in country-level policy processes as well as global health financing fora, including those related to the Global Financing Facility (GFF). The survey, which was publicly available in both English and French, received a total of 150 responses from 33 GFF focus countries. The survey elicited feedback on the CSO/YLO landscape in each GFF partner country, including strengths, gaps and challenges faced by CSO/YLOs in their work and engagement in GFF processes. The findings from the consultation will be used to define opportunities to strengthen multi-sectoral collaboration, including increasing meaningful CSO/YLO engagement GFF



processes at the country level. The survey is also intended to identify priorities and opportunities to strengthen CSO/YLO networks to ensure they are positioned, resourced, and equipped to act as advocates to advance sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition (SRMNCAH-N).

### Overview

Four respondents to the 2023 CSO/YLO Community Survey reported working in Sierra Leone. Of these organizations, one identified themselves as a CSO, one as a YLO, one as a CSO/YLO social movement or coalition, and one as an international non-governmental organization (INGO). Only one of the respondents said they were unsure whether their organization currently receives or has received funding from PAI, while the other three said they have not received funding from PAI.

Survey respondents were asked to select all the geographic levels at which they work (e.g., subnational, national, regional, and global). Of the respondents who work in Sierra Leone, their geographical focus was as follows: three work sub-nationally, four work nationally, two work regionally, and one works globally. As a result, some of the findings

presented in this report may also reflect two respondents' experience working regionally and globally.

Most of the respondents that work in Sierra Leone reported working in health and nutrition (including SRMNCAH-N), education, and gender equality. Of those that work in health and nutrition, the organizations that responded to the survey focus on the following areas: maternal health, adolescent health, and sexual and reproductive health (SRH). Respondents also predominately conduct the following activities: advocacy, accountability and monitoring, and health financing.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 below provide additional information about the respondents' work by sector, areas of focus in health and nutrition, and specific activities. Please note that the respondents selected all answer choices that were relevant.

**Table 1. Sectors in which respondents work in Sierra Leone, 2023 CSO/YLO Community Survey**

Sectors	Number of respondents
Health and nutrition, including SRMNCAH-N	4
Climate change	2
Education	4
Human rights	3
Gender equality	4
Humanitarian	2
Governance	2

**Table 2. Health and nutrition focus areas of respondents in Sierra Leone, 2023 CSO/YLO Community Survey**

Health and Nutrition Focus Area	Number of respondents
Sexual and reproductive health	3
Maternal health	4
Newborn and child health	3
Adolescent health	4
Nutrition	3
Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), including malaria	1
Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)	1

**Table 3. Activities that responding organizations implement in Sierra Leone, 2023 CSO/YLO Community Survey**

Organizational Activity	Number of respondents
Advocacy	4
Research	3
Accountability and monitoring	4
Civic engagement	3
Youth engagement	3
Health financing	4
Policy development	2
Technical assistance	2
Coalition building	2
Service delivery	2

As indicated in Table 4 below, most of the respondents in Sierra Leone categorized their significant accomplishments or “wins” as the following: mobilized domestic resources for health and/or nutrition; supported policy development; and supported a specific policy win.

**Table 4. Respondents’ accomplishments and “wins” in Sierra Leone, 2023 CSO/YLO Community Survey**

Organizational Accomplishment or “Win”	Number of respondents
Mobilized multilateral or bilateral resources for health and/or nutrition	2
Mobilized domestic resources for health and/or nutrition	3
Supported policy development	3
Supported a specific policy win	3
Implemented high-impact programs	2
Effectively carried out civic engagement	3
Effectively carried out youth engagement	3
Conducted impactful research	2
Convened or assumed a leadership role in coalitions	2
Coordination, communication, and strong network capacity	1

### CSO/YLO Capacity Gaps and Opportunities

The respondents that work in Sierra Leone ranked the activity of the broader CSO/YLO community in Sierra Leone as a 6.7 out of 10 where 1 indicates that the CSO/YLO community is not active; 5 indicates that it is moderately active including dynamic coalitions and partnerships; and 10 indicates that it is highly active in a manner that leads to impact. One respondent reported that the CSO/YLO community “is moderately active here in Sierra Leone because of less collaboration and support, especially technically and financial.”

These responding organizations listed the following top three areas in which they need the most support related to organizational development:

- Financial management (e.g., Fundraising, Business development, procurement, donor relations, grants management) – *3 respondents*
- Program Development and Management (e.g., program design and implementation) – *2 respondents*
- Partnerships and Coalitions (e.g., Coalition creation, coordination, management) – *2 respondents*

The survey respondents listed the top two areas that their organization needs the most support related to technical capacity as follows:

- The latest techniques/competencies/policies/trends in SRMNCAH-N – *3 respondents*
- Youth engagement – *3 respondents*

To address the areas where respondents would need support related to organizational development and technical capacity, the respondents listed the following top three interventions:

- Funding (e.g., grants) – *3 respondents*
- Working session or technical consultation with a technical expert (1:1) – *3 respondents*
- In-person trainings – *3 respondents*

Half of the respondents preferred that these interventions be offered all in person.

### **SRMNCAH-N Policies and Health Financing Priorities and Challenges**

One respondent that works in Sierra Leone reported being familiar with the country government priorities related to SRMNCAH-N and two reported engaging in work related to the development of policies that are supportive of SRMNCAH-N in their country context. Of the respondents that reported engaging in policy development and health financing in the past, they listed the key entry points for their engagement:

- Direct advocacy toward country government representatives
- Participation in CSO/YLO networks
- GFF processes

The respondents reported that the following are the most pressing opportunities and/or needs to advance or sustain SRMNCAH-N in their country context:

- “Availability of a strong national health sector strategy and action plan.”
- “The existence of a vibrant civil society that is grounded in national level advocacy and engagement.”
- Accountability and monitoring
- Youth engagement

They also reported the following as the greatest challenges to advancing these opportunities:

- Lack of funding for SRMNCAH-N issues
- Lack of funding for civil society and youth engagement
- Limited civic space for civil society and youth engagement
- Lack of political support for SRMNCAH-N issues

## **Global Financing Facility (GFF)**

Only one of the four respondents that reported working in Sierra Leone answered the survey questions related to their awareness of and experience engaging with GFF mechanisms at the country level. As a result, there are not enough data to present findings that reflect the broad range of experiences of organizations that work in this country. Future outreach to CSO/YLOs who are active in this country should inquire as to their awareness of and engagement with GFF processes in Sierra Leone, as well as factors that enable or hinder their participation in these processes.